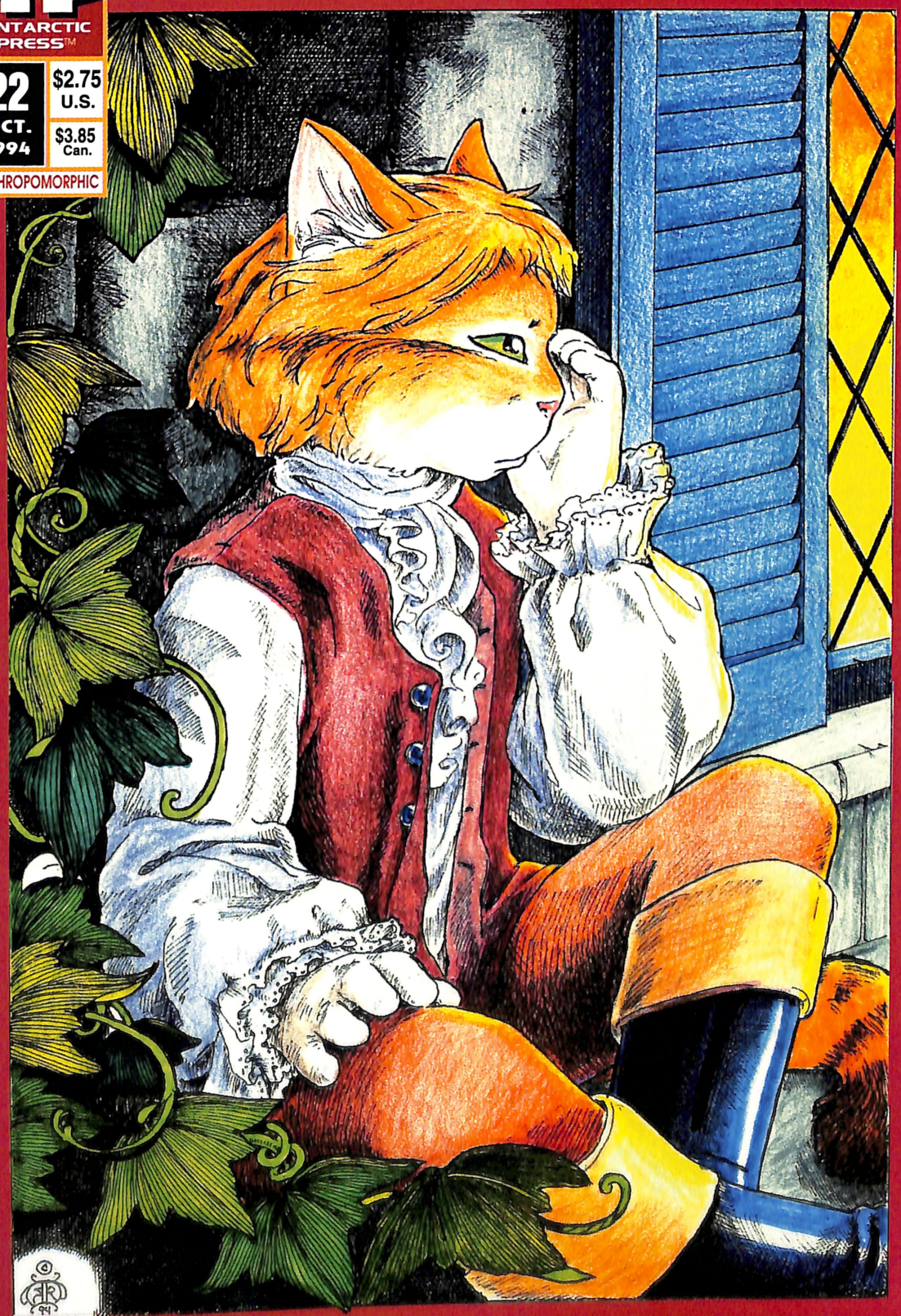
FURRLOUGH



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ANTHROPOMORPHIC

ANTARCTIC BLAST
OCTOBER 1994

STARRY-EYED DREAMERS

While browsing in my local comics shop lately, I've come across a number of first issues from brand-new companies. I usually glance over these to see if they're any good, because I'm always looking for new comics to add to the very small list of non-AP books I read. More often than not (*much* more often), I end up putting these comics back because they're poorly drawn or written, lack originality, or simply don't intrigue me. But I always try to read the effusive editorials that blare forth from the inside front or back covers.

You see, good or bad, new companies almost always gleam with a certain lustre of happy optimism. They've just come on the scene, their dream of being in comicdom is at hand, and this, their first issue, represents an unprecedented opportunity to speak to the masses — to let everyone in on their grand plans. They rarely hesitate to do so.

When I read these beaming expositions on Big Ideas, New And Different Comics, A Dedication To Quality, and Making Comics Fun Again, I sometimes shake my head ruefully. More often than not, the aspirations of these new companies are completely out of sync with their level of talent. It's difficult not to see their editorials as badly written puffery, totally blind to the woeful lack of ability their attached comics display. It's difficult not to scoff at and even resent the dreck that finds its way to the shelves just because some sap has a few thousand dollars to invest in color separations and a meager print run.

But usually, something in these bombasts of ambition touches a certain spot in me and makes me sympathize with their writers.

It hasn't been all *that* many years since the Antarctic Press started up, nor since I first became editor of *Mangazine*. In those early days (and, some would probably say, even in recent months), these fingers typed their share of goofy editorials whose themes spoke grandly of things much greater than our talent pool at the time could produce. I'm certainly not in any position to cast the first stone at tiny companies trying desperately to turn their dreams into four-color reality.

This medium is a medium of fantasy. It's a medium built upon visions of other worlds, and dreams of creating something worthwhile. One could argue that many of these small companies could use a dose of harsh reality, that their bubbles need bursting. But I find it unfair to begrudge them their hopes. The market will perform that function for me — it will bestow on them weak and dwindling sales, the headaches of printing deadlines, the crunch of cash-flow troubles and distributors who may drop them if their circulation falls too low. So they don't need me wishing them ill.

I give them their due. I read their editorials, written in that shining moment of glory as they ready their first book for publication. I look over their books. And if I see potential in their work, something intriguing, substance that shows at least the promise of worth, then I give them my $2.50, or $2.95, and hope that when I get home, their book will bring me the few minutes of diversion and entertainment they've worked so hard to deliver.

That's what this industry is about, and that's what I think allowed our company to survive past those years when we had more potential than we did polish — the willingness to indulge someone else's dreams.

If we ever loose that willingness — if retailers feel they've been burned once too often by crappy independents, if distributors make their policies too restrictive for fledgling companies . . . or even if readers just don't make the effort to look over everything that's on the shelves — it will be a sad day for the comics industry.

Herb Mallette

Editor in Chief

Look, Kids! A career in comics is fun, exciting and profitable! Just ask Joe Wight, creator of Twilight X, after a recent store signing!

SPAM SPAM SPAM

This month has been, by my recollection, the most exciting month in memory. I spent two weeks at Image Comics working for Top Cow helping them color and assemble Codename: Stryke Force, Cyber Force and the Cyber Force Sourcebook. I'd like to thank all my friends at Top Cow, especially Marc & Cynthia, Brian, Tyson, Nick and Glen for their patience and their invaluable guidance.

By the time I got back, so much had happened at Antarctic Press that I scarcely recognized the schedule. The up and coming Warrior Nun Areala Ashcan (written and drawn by Ben Dunn) came back from the printer and looks hot! Areala is a member of a small group of elite nuns who protect the faith from the wicked with more than just harsh words. When a rash of demonic killings target New York churches, Areala and Magic Priest team up to purge Satan's hellish minions. Warrior Nun Areala ships in December.

Anime fans rejoice! Kuni Kimura, our intrepid manga-maniac, has informed me that we've secured the rights to bring a series called Gojin to the U.S. According to Kuni, the story is something like "Ultraman in feudal Japan." Sounds cool. Its written and drawn by Yutaka Kaudo, and will be coming sometime next year.

A warm welcome to Kris Overstreet, who's joined the AP staff this month. He'll be helping Ray Elliot in the ever-burgeoning mail-order department to bring you your back issue orders in a timely manner. Also, Pat Kelly, production guy and touch-up wizard, rejoins us after a brief absence. Seems like he was off training to be an officer in the Army. When he got back I swore I heard him say, "Those Army drill sergeants were as tough as wet spaghetti compared to the whip-cracking, slave-driving taskmasters at AP." Of course, I could be mistaken.

—PAT

CHECK OUT ANTARCTIC PRESS' other releases

RELEASE DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

- ☐ Mangazine #15 (relist)
- ☐ NHS Swimsuit 1993 (relist)
- ☐ Tomorrow Man/Knight Hunter #2
- ☐ Albedo v3 #2
- ☐ Vanity Angel #2 (Venus)
- ☐ Bondage Fairies #2 (2nd) (Venus)
- ☐ Gold Digger Graphic Novel
- ☐ Silbuster #5
- ☐ Furrlough #22
- ☐ Emblem #5 (Venus)
- ☐ NHS Yearbook 1994
- ☐ Gold Digger #16
- ☐ Wild Life #9
- ☐ Fantastic Panic #8
- ☐ Velvet Touch #5 (Venus)

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FURRLOUGH

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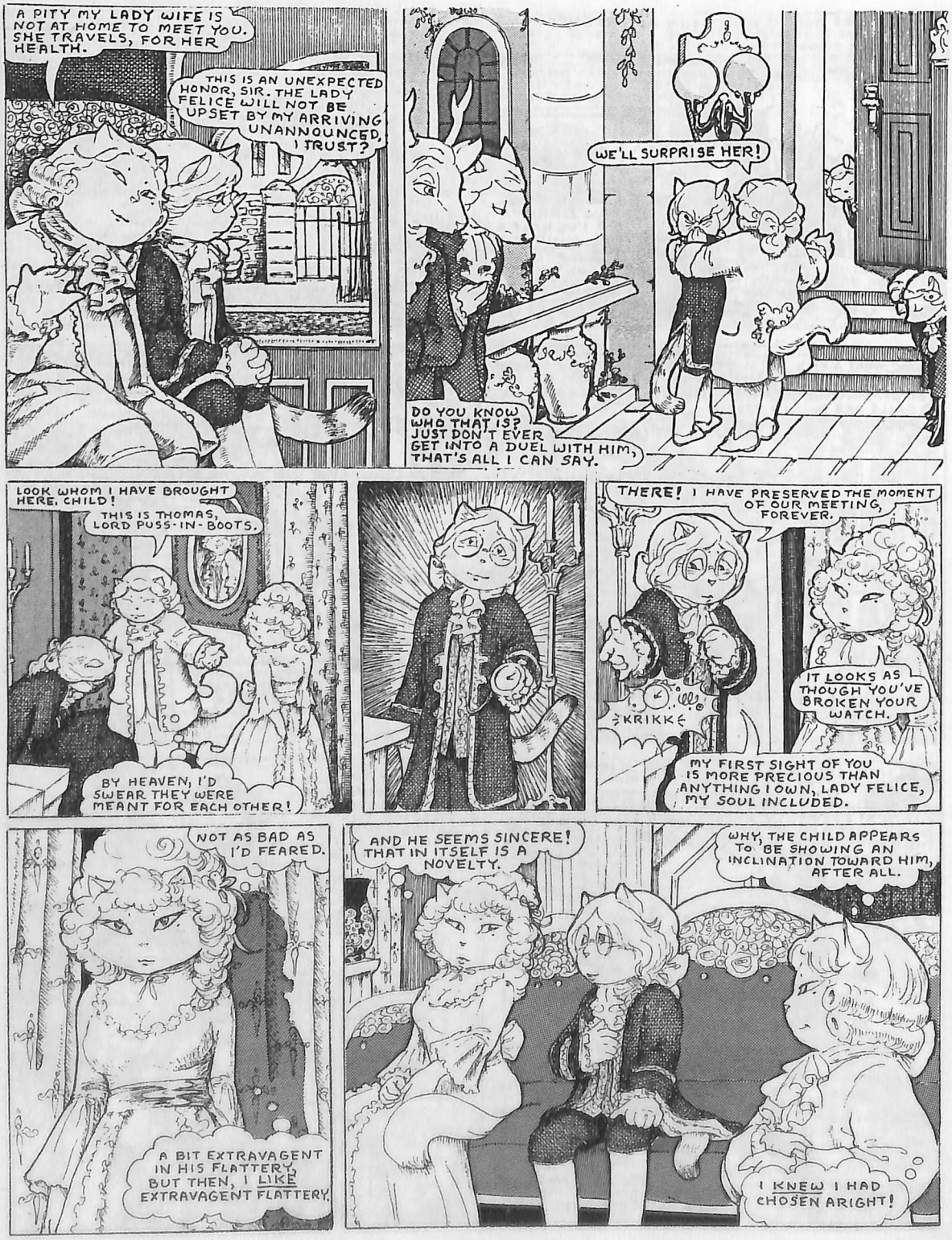
Here Comes a Candle

LOOK, IT'S FELICE! DARLING, WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP HERE?
FLOUNCEE! DIVA! YOU STARTLED ME.
I--I WAS WAITING FOR A CHANCE TO SPEAK WITH LADY BOUFFANT---
BUT MOTHER IS BUSY WITH HER GUESTS, SILLY!
--AND SHOULDN'T YOU BE DOWN THERE, MEETING YOUR BRIDEGROOM? YOU'VE NOT EVEN SEEN HIM YET!
I WASN'T QUITE READY. BUT YOU YOURSELVES ARE UPSTAIRS AS WELL--?
WHERE SHOULD WE BE, WITH OUR OWN BEAUX A-FLITTING AFTER THAT PRETTY STEPMOTHER OF HIS?
NATURALLY, NONE WOULD HOLD AGAINST YOUR INTENDED, HIS FATHER'S TASTE FOR LOWBORN WENCHES.
KA9AB12 HALL
TRESPIS
FREP
TRE2PASER2
WILL BE
2KEWERD!
OH, BUT NEVER! EVERYONE ALLOWS THAT THE BACK-COUNTRY CUSTOMS BELONG TO AN OLDER AND CRUDER TIME.
AND WHO WOULD DARE SPEAK AGAINST ANY RELATIVE OF A DUELLIST WITH SUCH A DEADLY REPUTATION! HAVE YOU HEARD THE STORIES, MY DEAR? WHAT A TEMPER HE MUST HAVE!
POOR, POOR FELICE! FORCED TO MARRY A HOT-BLOODED BARBARIAN SUCH AS THAT! AND IS IT TRUE THAT HIS LAST DUEL LEFT HIM HORRIBLY DISFIGURED?
WIFE! BRING ME MY HEN!
Y-YOU ATE HER YESTERDAY, MY LORD---
THEN BRING ME MY GOLDEN HARPSICHORD!
BUT YOU ATE THAT THIS MORNING---
YOU GOOD-FOR-NOTHING! GO! CURL UP IN THE CHIMNEY-CORNER. I WON'T FORCE MY HORRIBLY DISFIGURED SELF UPON YOU TONIGHT, I'M OFF TO SEEK SOME LOWBORN WENCHES!
I WAS AFRAID TO LOOK, DARLING! DO LET US HOPE THAT IT MAY STAY HIS APPETITE FOR VIOLENCE.
BUT SHE'S GONE! NOW, I KNOW THE NEW SCHOOL OF THOUGHT HOLDS THAT FOLKS' SHAPES ARE IMMATERIAL. STILL--
I DO MAINTAIN THAT THE CAT-FOLK ARE HARD ON ONE'S DRAPES.
SUCH GAMES OF TRIVIAL MANIPULATION ARE MEAT AND DRINK TO FLOUNCEE AND DIVA, AND OTHERS OF THEIR CLASS.

THE RUMORS SERVE THOMAS IN ONE RESPECT: HIS NOW-FORMIDABLE REPUTATION DISCOURAGES THE YOUNGER LORDS' INCLINATIONS TO TEST THEIR PROWESS AT HIS EXPENSE.
TWO SCORE OPPONENTS DOWNED, AND AT HIS AGE? I'D NOT CHALLENGE HIM, SAVE TO A DUEL OF WITS, PERHAPS.
HOW DARE YOU, SIR! I'VE HALF A MIND--
---AHA! FOR ONCE, LORD PIFFLE, YOU'RE RIGHT!
YOU THINK, THEN, HE'D DO BATTLE WITH AN UNARMED OPPONENT?
THAT DOES IT! I CHALLENGE ALL OF YOU!
LOOK, A ROYAL AUDIENCE FOR OUR SON! SPLENDID, IS IT NOT?
WHAT IS BEULAH DOING DOWN THERE?
CONSOLING HERSELF FOR YOUR LOSS, NO DOUBT.
THE PRESENTATION-DAY IS A FRESH TRIUMPH, ALTHOUGH THOMAS IS PUZZLED BY THE KING'S INSISTENCE THAT HE MUST PROMISE TO ABSTAIN FROM DUELLING--
WHAT A PITY YOU'LL MISS THE EVENING'S FESTIVITIES. THE KING'S BALLS ARE NEVER DISAPPOINTING, BUT THE QUEEN'S BALLS ARE BIGGER YET!
IF THEIR MAJESTIES EXPRESSLY WISHED IT, I'D OBEY, BUT WITH LADY FELICE ABSENT, MY COMPANY MIGHT BE RATHER DEPRESSING. FORGIVE ME.
HE COULD HAVE ANYTHING HE WISHED NOW, BUT THE LOVE-STRUCK YOUNG FOOL WILL WASTE ALL THE ROYAL FAVOR HE'S GAINED.
IS MY DAUGHTER AVOIDING HIM? DOES SHE WISH TO RUIN ME?
THERE WILL BE MUSIC BY WOLFBANE BEAUX-ARTS, THE SAME WHO COMPOSED THE MUSIC FOR YOUR OWN WEDDING.
DOES MY LADY NOT LIKE MUSIC AND DANCING?
SENSING THE SITUATION DETERIORATING, MALKIN MOVES TO RESOLVE THE MATTER.
WHY, SHE WOULD DANCE HER SLIPPERS TO TATTERS, WHEN THE MOOD IS UPON HER.
BUT, YES! EVERYONE KNOWS THAT FELICE WILL DO THE MINUET WITH ANYONE.
SHE SHALL HAVE MUSIC WHEREVER SHE GOES, IF THAT WILL PLEASE HER.
I HAVE IT! COME YOU HOME WITH ME THIS EVENING.
HIS DISAPPOINTMENT NEARLY LED HIM INTO A POLITICAL BLUNDER! BEST THAT FELICE OVERCOME THIS STRANGE SHYNESS WITHOUT DELAY!

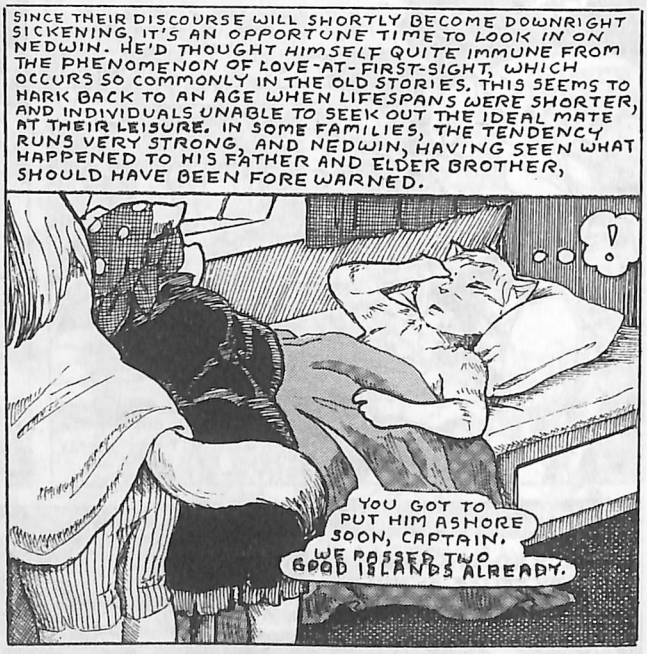

A PITY MY LADY WIFE IS NOT AT HOME TO MEET YOU. SHE TRAVELS, FOR HER HEALTH.
THIS IS AN UNEXPECTED HONOR, SIR. THE LADY FELICE WILL NOT BE UPSET BY MY ARRIVING UNANNOUNCED, I TRUST?
WE'LL SURPRISE HER!
DO YOU KNOW WHO THAT IS? JUST DON'T EVER GET INTO A DUEL WITH HIM, THAT'S ALL I CAN SAY.
LOOK WHOM I HAVE BROUGHT HERE, CHILD!
THIS IS THOMAS, LORD PUSS-IN-BOOTS.
BY HEAVEN, I'D SWEAR THEY WERE MEANT FOR EACH OTHER!
THERE! I HAVE PRESERVED THE MOMENT OF OUR MEETING, FOREVER.
KRIKK
IT LOOKS AS THOUGH YOU'VE BROKEN YOUR WATCH.
MY FIRST SIGHT OF YOU IS MORE PRECIOUS THAN ANYTHING I OWN, LADY FELICE, MY SOUL INCLUDED.
NOT AS BAD AS I'D FEARED.
A BIT EXTRAVAGENT IN HIS FLATTERY, BUT THEN, I LIKE EXTRAVAGENT FLATTERY.
AND HE SEEMS SINCERE! THAT IN ITSELF IS A NOVELTY.
WHY, THE CHILD APPEARS TO BE SHOWING AN INCLINATION TOWARD HIM, AFTER ALL.
I KNEW I HAD CHOSEN ARIGHT!

HIS GALLANTRIES ARE QUITE DIVERTING!
WHATEVER OBJECTION DID I HAVE TO HIM AS A SUITOR?
CAN YOU BELIEVE, LORD THOMAS, THAT MY DAUGHTER ACTUALLY WISHED TO SELECT HER OWN HUSBAND?
AS THOUGH THE FEMININE GENDER HAD ENOUGH SENSE TO BE TRUSTED WITH SUCH A DECISION!
IF YOU WILL EXCUSE ME, PLEASE, I FEEL--- A CHILL.
NOW, WHERE CAN SHE BE GOING? I THOUGHT EVERYTHING WAS PROCEEDING NICELY.
WHAT DID YOU DO TO UPSET HER?
I-- DON'T KNOW, SIR, TRULY.
I'D NOT MAKE HER UNHAPPY FOR ALL THE WORLD!
PERHAPS IT IS MERELY THAT YOU'RE STILL A STRANGER TO HER. WE SHALL GET YOU BETTER ACQUAINTED.

IT IS CONTRIVED THAT THE BETROTHED COUPLE SHOULD HAVE SOME TIME TOGETHER --- SUITABLY CHAPERONED, OF COURSE.
YOUR FATHER SUGGESTED THAT YOU MIGHT ENJOY A STROLL IN THIS GARDEN.
I --AH-- ADMIRE WHAT THEY'VE DONE WITH THE SILVER BELLS AND COCKLESHELLS. AT CARABAS HALL, YOU SHALL HAVE A PARTY-GARDEN, IF YOU LIKE ---
OH?
AND DID MY FATHER SUGGEST THAT, TOO?
HE HAS GIVEN ME TO UNDERSTAND THAT--- YOU LIKE TO DANCE?
THAT DEPENDS UPON WHO MY PARTNER MIGHT BE. TO SOME, IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE.
I SHALL LOOK FORWARD TO THAT HONOR WITH THE MOST TENDER ANTICIPATION.
YOU MAY ASSURE YOURSELF OF IT, SIR, FOR MY FATHER IS LIKELY TO INSIST UPON IT.
PRAY YOU, MILADY! HAVE I DONE SOMETHING TO ANGER YOU?
OH! WHAT COULD POSSIBLY MAKE ME ANGRY? YOU DO NOT SEEM ANGRY AT HAVING TO MARRY WHOMSOEVER YOUR FATHER SHOULD DECREE!
BUT-- HOW COULD I BE? MY FATHER DECREED THAT I SHOULD MARRY YOU.
ONE CANNOT BE FORCED INTO A CHOICE THAT ONE'S HEART HAS MADE ALREADY.
GO SPEAK TO HIM, CHILD. I AM FATIGUED, AND WISH TO CLOSE MY EYES FOR A BIT.
I SAY, I AM SO TIRED, I MUST NEEDS CLOSE MY EYES!
I BELIEVE SHE MEANS YOU MAY KISS ME.
BUT ONLY IF YOU STOP SPEAKING AS THOUGH YOU OWN ME ALREADY.
OWN YOU! BY HEAVEN'S LIGHT, DEAR LADY FELICE, 'TIS QUITE THE OTHER WAY 'ROUND!

MILADY-- ?GASP? --FORGIVE ME, I--I FEEL RATHER DIZZY!
I FEEL A BIT VAPORISH, MYSELF. PERHAPS WE OUGHT TO SIT DOWN.
!
I SAID I WOULD CLOSE MY EYES, BUT NOT THAT I'D SLEEP FOR A HUNDRED YEARS!
WICKED, WICKED CHILDREN! LADY FELICE, DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR FATHER WILL DO WHEN HE LEARNS OF THIS DALLIANCE?
IF HE IS WISE, MY OLD FRIEND WILL MOVE THAT WEDDING-DATE FORWARD!

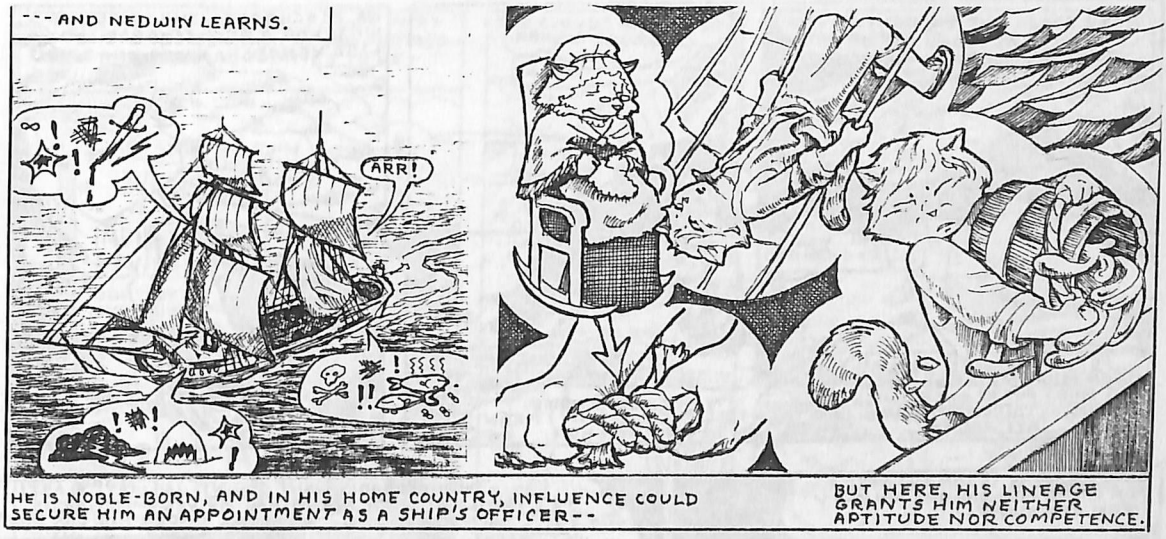
IN THIS MANNER IS THOMAS INITIATED INTO THE WORLD HE WAS BRED TO INHERIT.
THE FIRST CRACKS IN ITS BRITTLE FACADE ARE NOT YET VISIBLE, SO WE'LL LEAVE THIS COUPLE TO ENJOY IT WHILE THEY CAN.


SINCE THEIR DISCOURSE WILL SHORTLY BECOME DOWNRIGHT SICKENING, IT'S AN OPPORTUNE TIME TO LOOK IN ON NEDWIN. HE'D THOUGHT HIMSELF QUITE IMMUNE FROM THE PHENOMENON OF LOVE-AT-FIRST-SIGHT, WHICH OCCURS SO COMMONLY IN THE OLD STORIES. THIS SEEMS TO HARK BACK TO AN AGE WHEN LIFESPANS WERE SHORTER, AND INDIVIDUALS UNABLE TO SEEK OUT THE IDEAL MATE AT THEIR LEISURE. IN SOME FAMILIES, THE TENDENCY RUNS VERY STRONG, AND NEDWIN, HAVING SEEN WHAT HAPPENED TO HIS FATHER AND ELDER BROTHER, SHOULD HAVE BEEN FOREWARNED.
!
YOU GOT TO PUT HIM ASHORE SOON, CAPTAIN. WE PASSED TWO GOOD ISLANDS ALREADY.

AYE, IF I WANTED THE NATIVES TO SACRIFICE 'IM TO A VOLCANO!
THOUGHT TO PUT IN AT ONE OF THE SETTLEMENTS WHERE WE TRADE.
IT'S THIS WAY. CREW THINKS YOU'RE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF A HELPLESS CAPTIVE.
THAT SUITS 'EM WELL ENOUGH, THEY ARE PIRATES AFTER ALL. BUT TRY KEEPING HIM LIKE A PET, AND THEY'LL KILL HIM. THEY GOT NO LOVE FOR GENTRY, AND HE CAN'T DO NOTHING ABOARD SHIP.

I CAN LEARN! I'LL BEGIN THIS MINUTE--- AT THE FRONT OF THE SHIP.
BOW, QUALITY, BOW!

VERY WELL, BUT WHY?


---AND NEDWIN LEARNS.
ARR!
HE IS NOBLE-BORN, AND IN HIS HOME COUNTRY, INFLUENCE COULD SECURE HIM AN APPOINTMENT AS A SHIP'S OFFICER--
BUT HERE, HIS LINEAGE GRANTS HIM NEITHER APTITUDE NOR COMPETENCE.

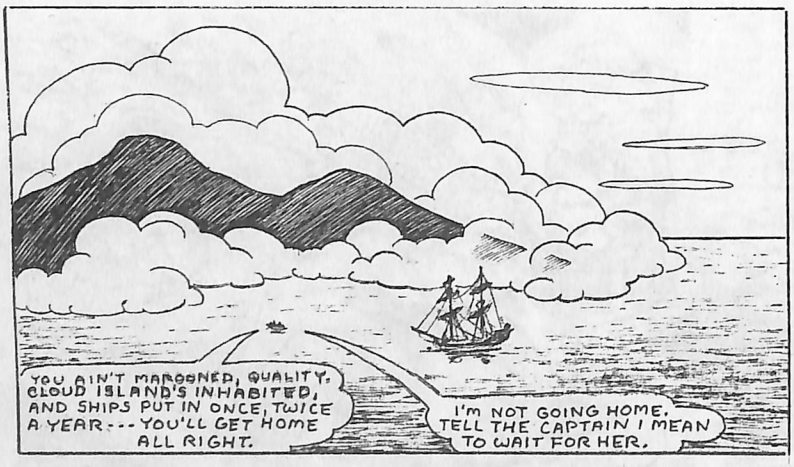
I GAVE ME WORD HE'D GO SAFE ASHORE! YONDER STANDS THE CLOUD ISLAND. 'EE CAN BE RID OF 'IM SOON ENOUGH!

'EE HAS NO FEEL FOR A SEAFARER'S LIFE...
I UNDERSTAND, BUT THAT'S NO CONSOLATION. I LOVE THE SEA.
SEA CAN'T LOVE 'EE BACK. TAKES A LIVING HEART T'DO THAT.

YOURS? CAPTAIN, I STILL WANT TO MARRY YOU.
I GOT A FEW HUSBANDS IN OTHER PORTS, BUT IF THAT DON'T TROUBLE 'EE---

NOT A PIRATE-STYLE MARRIAGE, A REAL ONE, UNDER THE LAW.
BUT I BE A PIRATE, QUALITY.
YOU MEAN YOU WOULD, IF YOU WEREN'T A PIRATE?

AYE.
A NEW LINE O' WORK FOR ME? GIVE 'EE A DEAL O' TIME T'KNOW YER OWN MIND, THAT WILL!


YOU AIN'T MAROONED, QUALITY. CLOUD ISLAND'S INHABITED, AND SHIPS PUT IN ONCE, TWICE A YEAR--- YOU'LL GET HOME ALL RIGHT.
I'm NOT GOING HOME. TELL THE CAPTAIN I MEAN TO WAIT FOR HER.

NA, BLACKBOOTS, SHE LIVES TOO WILD FOR A RESPECTABLE LAD LIKE YERSELF.
WILD--- THAT'S TRUE ENOUGH.

BUT IT'S NOT A SAILOR SHE NEEDS, FOR THERE ARE SAILORS APLENTY UPON HER SHIP.
WHAT PIRATES WANT MOST IS TREASURE! AND I'M WEALTHY! IF SHE COULD SEE JUST HOW WELL-OFF MY FAMILY IS, WHY, SHE'D-- SHE'D PROBABLY--

--- SHE'D PROBABLY WANT SQUINT, IS WHAT! BLAST! HE'S FAR WEALTHIER THAN I AM. MY VERY INCOME IS UNDER HIS CONTROL!
BUT IF I COULD GENERATE A FORTUNE ON MY OWN---

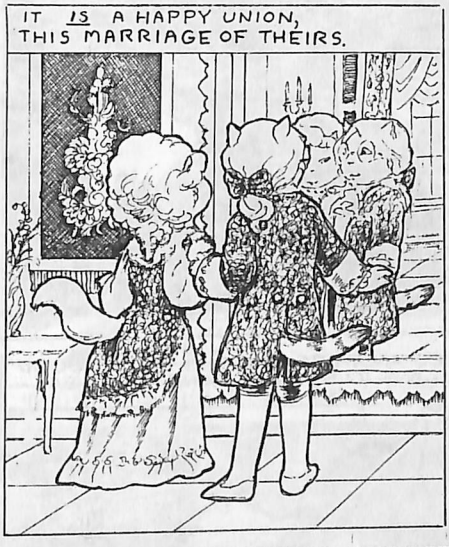
OF COURSE! IT'S A TEST!
IN OUR FOREFATHERS DAY, ONE OFTEN HAD TO PASS A TEST, IN ORDER TO WIN THE FAIR LADY.
AND I SHALL BE EQUAL TO THE TASK!
FAIRWIND, TALK TO THE CREW. MY BROTHER HAS INFLUENCE BACK HOME-- PARDONS MIGHT BE ARRANGED, FOR THOSE WHO ARE WILLING.

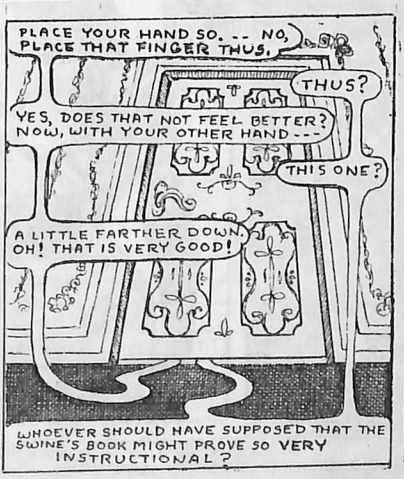
AS FOR THE TREASURE, I'LL FIND A WAY. SHE'LL BE BACK, AND I'LL BE HERE.

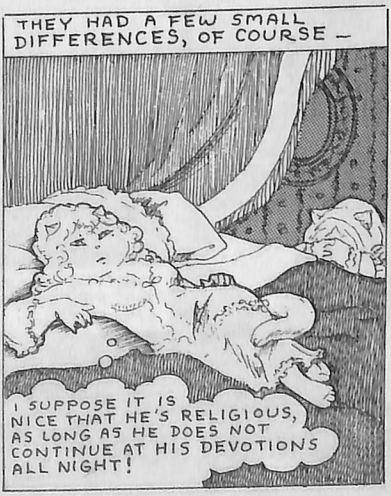
YIE! WELL, NOT IN THIS VERY SPOT, PERHAPS.

SUPERSTITIOUS SAILORS BELIEVE THAT CLOUD ISLAND HAS MAGICAL PROPERTIES. THERE ARE SEVERAL ODDITIES TO BE NOTICED---
WELCOME TO THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION COURTESY OF TINKER + COMPANY
!
THAT'S NOT MAGIC, IT'S A DEVICE OF SOME KIND. DID IT CAUSE THE SEA TO COME AFTER ME THAT WAY?
THE CLOUDS APPEAR TO HAVE A SOURCE.
---AS DOES THAT NOISE. IT SOUNDS VERY LIKE I THINK I CAN--?
WHAT MANNER OF INHABITANTS ARE WITHIN?
OHO! I THOUGHT THE PLACE HAD AN AIR ABOUT IT.
ER--- ME NEDWIN, OF CARABAS HALL.
CARABAS-- WHAT, IN THE PEACEABLE KINGDOM?
YOU SPEAK PAX? COMPATRIOT?
I SAW YOUR SIGNBOARD-- YOU MUST BE TINKER.
TINKER HARBORS SUSPICION AGAINST NEDWIN'S BACKGROUND AT FIRST, BEING HIMSELF A REFUGEE FROM A WEALTHY LAMBLORD'S DISPLEASURE.
WE HAVE NO OVERLORDS HERE. YOU'LL HAVE TO EARN YOUR KEEP OR BE ON YOUR WAY.
I'M QUITE WILLING, IF YOU PROMISE NOT TO SHOOT AT ME OR THROW THINGS WHEN I MAKE A MISTAKE.
NEDWIN IS ABLE TO OVERCOME THESE MISGIVINGS IN THE WEEKS THAT FOLLOW, WITH THE HONESTY OF HIS EFFORTS.
IN THE EVENINGS, THEIR TALES MAKE GOOD TELLING. THEY DISCOVER THAT THEY HAVE AN ACQUAINTANCE IN COMMON, FOR THE TINKERS' FLIGHT HAD TAKEN THEM PAST CARABAS VILLAGE ---
WHERE EVEN NOW, THE FORM OF ONE OF TINKER'S CREATIONS IS BEING ADAPTED TO SUIT AN UNKNOWN PURPOSE.

AS THE WEEKS BECOME MONTHS, NEDWIN MAKES HIMSELF USEFUL IN THE INVENTOR'S WORKSHOP WITH TIME AT HIS DISPOSAL, AND NO CURSES OR MISSILES TO DODGE, HE LEARNS WELL, STIRRED BY HIS FASCINATION FOR THE CURIOUS DEVICES.
THIS ONE'S MY FAVORITE. IT LOOKS AS IF IT WOULD WORK, SO WHY DON'T WE BUILD IT?
SIGH WE LACK THE METAL IT REQUIRES.
METAL, AND A SMITH'S WORK. THEY'RE TOO EXPENSIVE.
WHAT WE NEED IS AN INVESTOR---
THAT'S IT! FOLKS WOULD PAY WELL FOR THE WORK THESE MACHINES CAN DO. WE COULD BECOME-- NO OFFENSE-- STINKING RICH!
NO OFFENSE, YOU'RE PRACTICALLY FAMILY, BUT--
THE ALLOWANCE MY FATHER LEFT ME--- IT'S IN MY BROTHER'S KEEPING, BUT I'LL SEND FOR IT. IT'S TIME OUR FRIENDS AT THE SETTLEMENT HAD A REAL BANK, ANYWAY.
AN ARISTOCRAT'S MONEY HELPING COMMONERS— A SWEET THOUGHT.
YOU'RE NOT LIKE THE REST, BUT YOUR BROTHER, BEING A LORD AND ALL --YOU EXPECT HIS ASSISTANCE?
IT'S JUST THAT-- IN THE OLD TALES, THE YOUNGER BROTHER SO OFTEN OUTDOES THE ELDER, I'D ASSUMED YOU WEREN'T ON THE BEST TERMS-- POSSIBLY HIS JEALOUSY HAD FORCED YOU FROM YOUR HOME.
QUITE THE CONTRARY, MY BROTHER IS VERY DEAR TO ME. AS FOR JEALOUSY, HE HAS NO CAUSE; BY NOW, HE'S MARRIED THE LADY OF HIS HEART, AND IS LIVING HAPPILY EVER AFTER.
Ye Holie Remaines of
PROPERTY OF THE CHURCH OF SAINT FIDO
NEDWIN IS PARTLY RIGHT, FOR NONE WOULD QUARREL WITH 'HAPPILY'---




PLACE YOUR HAND SO. -- NO, PLACE THAT FINGER THUS.
THUS?
YES, DOES THAT NOT FEEL BETTER? NOW, WITH YOUR OTHER HAND---
THIS ONE?
A LITTLE FARTHER DOWN. OH! THAT IS VERY GOOD!
WHOEVER SHOULD HAVE SUPPOSED THAT THE SWINE'S BOOK MIGHT PROVE SO VERY INSTRUCTIONAL?


THEY HAD A FEW SMALL DIFFERENCES, OF COURSE —
I SUPPOSE IT IS NICE THAT HE'S RELIGIOUS, AS LONG AS HE DOES NOT CONTINUE AT HIS DEVOTIONS ALL NIGHT!

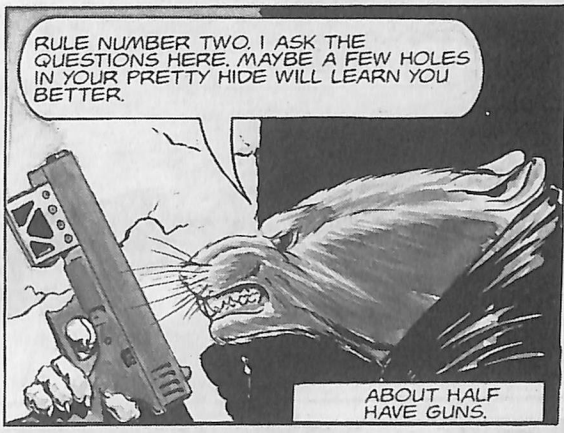
To Be Continued...

THERE WAS AN ADDRESS. NOBODY WAS THERE, OF COURSE. THAT LEFT THE UNDERCITY.
WHEN THE CORPORATIONS BUILT THEIR ARCOLOGIES, THERE WERE PLACES THE GOVS WOULDN'T LET THEM BULLDOZE.
SO THEY BUILT OVER THEM.
EVER SEE A ROCK? EVER LOOKED UNDER ONE?
IMAGINE THAT A MILLION TIMES BIGGER, AND YOU'LL HAVE THE UNDERCITY.
BUT I NEEDED ANSWERS, AND THIS WAS AS GOOD A PLACE AS ANY TO START LOOKING FOR THEM.
I COULD FEEL THE OLD EXCITEMENT COMING BACK.
THE THRILL OF THE CHASE. THE PIECING TOGETHER OF THE PUZZLE.
I COULD ALMOST FORGET WHO I WAS AFTER.

THE BODY HAD BEEN FOUND IN THIS ALLEY.
METROPOL HAD ALREADY BEEN OVER THE AREA.
BUT METROPOL DIDN'T HAVE THE EDGE.
IN THE SIMS, THE KILLER ALWAYS LEFT A TELLTALE BOOK OF MATCHES.
NMR
X1U
DOLF NEVER SMOKED.
AND THE SUIT USED A LIGHTER. SO MUCH FOR THAT.
NOW WHAT'S A PRETTY THING LIKE YOU DOING IN OUR NASTY OLD GARBAGE?
RATS!

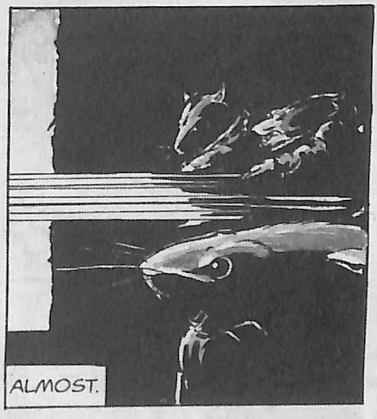
THE RATS CONTROLLED THE UNDERCITY, AT LEAST THOSE PARTS THE CORPORATIONS COULDN'T BE BOTHERED WITH. IF YOU WERE SMART, YOU DIDN'T MESS WITH THEM.
RULE NUMBER ONE. NOBODY TAKES OUR GARBAGE WITHOUT OUR SAY SO. HAND IT OVER AND MAYBE YOU GET TO STAY PRETTY.
THREATENING A CYBORG WASN'T TOO SMART EITHER.
IT'S JUST A LIGHTER. WHY DO YOU WANT IT?
SOMEBODY THOUGHT IT WAS WORTH KILLING FOR, PRETTY ONE. MAYBE WE THINK SO TOO.

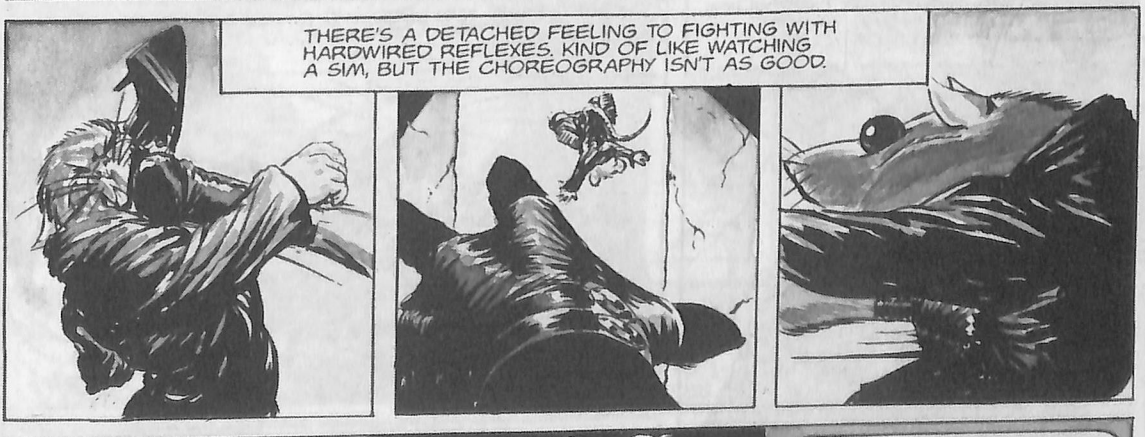
YOU'VE GOT TO TELL ME WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS.
THERE'S ABOUT A DOZEN OF THEM.


RULE NUMBER TWO. I ASK THE QUESTIONS HERE. MAYBE A FEW HOLES IN YOUR PRETTY HIDE WILL LEARN YOU BETTER.
ABOUT HALF HAVE GUNS.

THE REST HAVE KNIVES AND CLUBS.
ME, I'M ALONE, AND I HAVE A HANDFUL OF ROCKS.

I ALMOST FEEL SORRY FOR THEM.


ALMOST.


THERE'S A DETACHED FEELING TO FIGHTING WITH HARDWIRED REFLEXES. KIND OF LIKE WATCHING A SIM, BUT THE CHOREOGRAPHY ISN'T AS GOOD.

RUN FOR YOUR LIVES! SHE'S A CYBORG!
SHIV, YOU SMEGHEAD! YOU NEARLY GOT US ALL KILLED!
YEAH, LIKE SHE HAD A SIGN ON HER HEAD.

RULE NUMBER ONE....
THOU SHALT NOT ANNOY THE CORPORATION.
IF I DON'T FIND THE SUIT-KILLER, THE CORPORATION MIGHT JUST DECIDE IT'S SIMPLER TO SEND IN THE TROOPS AND MAKE A EXAMPLE OF YOU ALL.
SO UNLESS YOU LOVE THE SMELL OF NAPALM IN THE MORNING, YOU'D BETTER START TALKING.
OKAY! OKAY!
"I JUST CAUGHT THE END OF IT. IT SOUNDED LIKE THEY KNEW EACH OTHER."

"HE TAKES OUT THE SUIT'S BODYGUARDS, HE'S NOT EVEN BREATHING HARD. THE SUIT TRIES TO RUN. HE DOESN'T GET FAR."
"HE TAKES THE BODY INTO THE ALLEY...."
"HE LEAVES A FEW MINUTES LATER. THAT'S THE LAST I SEE OF HIM."
THAT'S IT?
THAT'S ALL. I SWEAR!
HERE'S MY NUMBER. CALL ME IF YOU SEE HIM AGAIN.
NO PROBLEM, PRETTY ONE.
CALL ME THAT AGAIN, AND I BREAK BOTH YOUR ARMS.
KILLER CYBORGS, CORPORATE TROOPERS. THIS USED TO BE A SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD.
HELLO, SHIV....

OH SMEG, NOT AGAIN.
I WANT TO TALK TO YOU.
JEEZ, WHAT IS THIS, THE 'BORG SECRET HANDSHAKE?
YOU SHOULD SHOW YOUR BETTERS MORE RESPECT, SHIV. IT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE.
THEY KNOW YOU OFFED THE SUIT, DOLF.
AND THEY SENT HER TO BRING ME IN. THE GODS DO ENJOY A JOKE AT OUR EXPENSE,DON'T THEY, SHIV?
YOU KNOW EACH OTHER? IT FIGURES.
YES I KNEW HER, BUT THAT WAS LONG AGO. WHAT DID YOU TELL HER?
I DIDN'T TELL HER NOTHING, DOLF.
TRY AGAIN, SHIV.
SHE SAID THEY'D SEND IN TROOPS, DOLF....
SHE'S JUST TRYING TO FRIGHTEN YOU. NOW YOU'RE GOING TO CALL HER, AND THIS IS WHAT YOU'LL TELL HER. AND SHIV?
YES, DOLF?
TREAT HER WITH RESPECT, OR I'LL BREAK BOTH YOUR ARMS.

yawn
?!

GUARDIAN KNIGHTS

"THE RENEGAR AFFAIR"

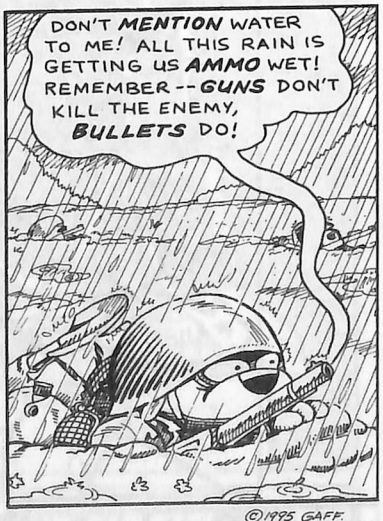
PENCILS/INKS/LETTERS
TYGGER
SCRIPT: D.A. GRAF
PLOT: D.A. GRAF
& TYGGER

TUGRIK ARMS SPECIAL
IT'S MY NAME ON THE MAILBOX, SO ONLY I CAN MESS IT UP.
TURN AROUND... SLOW.
DROP THAT.
MOVE AGAINST THE WALL.
-CLICK-
AH-AH! I WON'T KILL YOU.
I'LL JUST CARVE MY NAME IN YOU.
what th--?

AH!
SHIT!!
WHAT THE HELL IS HE USING?!

UNH!
snaH
HMP. OBVIOUSLY YOUR MOTHER NEVER TAUGHT YOU IT'S RUDE TO SNARL.
IT SEEMS I MUST TEACH YOU.
sion....
TO BE CONTINUED....

ONE RAINY NIGHT IN A FOXHOLE....



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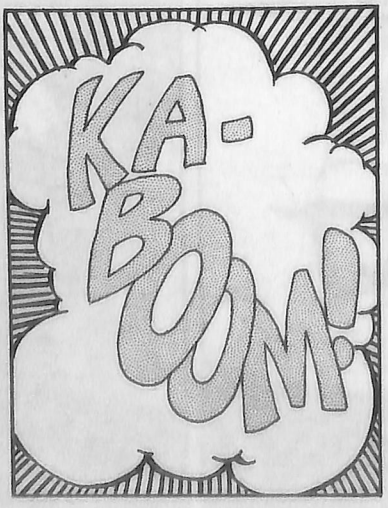

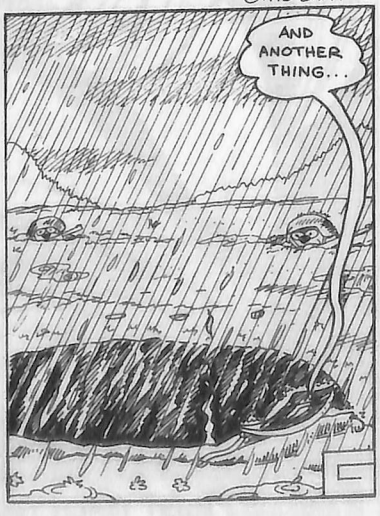

Next Issue!
The Return of
Bisoko
BY
94
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DEER JOHN

LETTERS TO FURRLOUGH
7272 WURZBACH SUITE 204
SAN ANTONIO, TX, 78240

Dear Penguins,

Another step on the road to becoming #1 Antarctic anthropomorphic letterhack (anyone can be a big frog by defining a small enough pond).

Furrlough #17: Interesting cover. I wonder what's going on? Even after I noticed the title, I wasn't any wiser; been a long time since I read ***Dune***. "Here Comes a Candle" is off to a rousing start, with fine drawing, a good Elizabethan milieu, and a big, interesting cast. The fairy-tale beginning is perfect, the frontispiece beautiful. Lots of good jokes, like the table of the elements on p.6. The story is just silly enough that the argument over who is to be the narrator is not intrusive. (Self-reference can be deadly if not kept in line.) "The Sound and the Furry" - see above, except that I also want to compliment Eric Oppen on getting the German in this episode mostly correct as well as funny. I hope that even monolinguals can understand "*licht* auf das *Ende* des *Tunnel* sehen". (That's "*am* Ende des Tunnels".) "Samurai Mice" is a deliciously funny dessert. And after that, another intelligent and enlightening letter column. I feel stupid not having seen the "penal Australia" connection of "Watering Hole" until Jason Gaffney pointed it out.

Aztec Anthropomorphic Amazons #1: This was lots of fun; even the foreword was great. Kurt may be a little too apologetic about the title; after all, at least the cover is definitely Aztec. I would have liked to see the Shon Howell illo that inspired the book. All parts are good, but "Lights Out" is my favorite; funny nitwits, beautiful inks.

Tank Vixens #2: This issue devotes less time to satirizing furversion and more to satisfying it, but it's still fun: the proverbial dropped soap and the echo of Shanda on p.4, the explanation of why SF soldiers are such bad shots, the dangers of nostalgia, the cameo by the droids, and especially Anastasia's bio. Good love scene; the dirty talk was less strained than last issue. This is one series I don't want to see more of, though; I don't think the joke would wear well. (Say, what does Paul Kidd think "l'chayim" means? It's not a German greeting, it's a Yiddish/Hebrew toast.)

Always carry a grapefruit,
Philip M. Cohen
White Plains, NY

Dear Penguins,

A little faster on the LoC this time.

Furrlough #18 is an excellent issue. A good episode of "Stosstrupp", notably the first page. My sympathies are with Karl. The best thing in the issue is the beautifully drawn and written "Here Comes a Candle", with an even more gorgeous splash panel than last time, a fine (and growing) cast of characters, and the first signs of how the title will become relevant. And "Girls Night Out" is a fine finish; beautifully done faces, funny cameo from **Gold Digger**, great last two pages. The best "Collars and Cuffs" yet.

Star Jacks #1 didn't do much for me, I'm afraid. It's decently drawn and adequately scripted, but no more, so details can spoil my pleasure. Scott's abominable attempt at a French accent me fait chier, and a couple of the women on the cover have such severe cases of alstonitis that it's hard to believe they can remain upright. The bodies are better inside, but the faces aren't so hot.

Spelling: "Stosstrupp" p.4, scavenge.

Always carry a grapefruit,
Philip M. Cohen
White Plains, NY

Dear Penguins,

Furrlough #19: A big guns cover, eh. But the story behind it is not bad at all. It has a **Varcel's Vixens** feel to it - bad girls in space - though it's in no way an imitation. The art is a little hard to follow at times but the storytelling is good. "Here Comes a Candle" has everything that made the first two installments so good except a splash panel, and I wonder if one was somehow lost. The story picks up with Nedwin already started on a journey of which there was hardly even a foreshadowing last time.

Hit the Beach 1994: I don't think this one is up to the 1993 edition, but it was still well worthwhile. It would have been hard to top the 1993 cover, but this one is quite attractive and interesting. Inside there are too many pinups for my taste, but many of the one-pagers have too much substance to just be called 'pinups'. That's a wonderful volleyball game in Pat Kelley's p.2, for example, and the tar oil is good too. What's that knife for? Rosales is excellent as always, beautiful and historically believable. And the Northern folks, Rovainen and Arnorsson, are snazzy and funny. Among the pure pinups I'd say my favorites are the Shanda section and the Nakagawas. "Beach and Moan" is a great confrontation done by two of the best Antarctic storytellers, the no-question top of the issue.

Always carry a grapefruit,
Philip M. Cohen
White Plains, NY

Dear Penguins,

I have very little to say about **Furrlough** #20; "Here Comes a Candle" continues to be superb - and a bit more comprehensible now that we've got part 3. Would that be plans for a guillotine in the chest? "The Sound and the Furry" comes to a satisfactory conclusion. And "Jack" - well, I guess it's not too bad for a superhero story. Eh.

Always carry a grapefruit,
Philip M. Cohen
White Plains, NY

To the **Furrlough** Editors:

I am writing to you as a big fan of your wonderful comic book. I started off with #7 and just received #19. Most excellent story titled "The Adventure" by M.A. Lewis and Scott Brooks. Most impressive art by Brooks, buuuut the bounty hunter Nabali threw me off guard a bit, a female warrior with a man's iron jaw as featured on pages 14, 17, and 20. Lewis's storytelling was real great except for a few lines on p. 18, panels 2 and 3. Panel 2: "Aggressive posture Alpha **Komtu**" ?? No idea what that meant, and in panel 3 "**Rebut** with preventive maneuver", the most mind-boggling words I ever heard of before. Still, all in all, excellent story. Plus a totally awesome front cover. Question? What was the name of the captured black feline girl anyway? Hope to see more stories with Nabali and crew with Lewis & Brooks in the future.

Just a few weeks ago, I received back issues of **Furrlough** #3,4, and #5 and the **Hit the Beach** issue. I loved every issue I received. What is breaking my heart is that issue #1 of **Furrlough** is sold out! ARRRGH!! Without #1 and #6, I am dead in the water to find out what happens with certain episodes of "Stosstrupp", "Why Desert Winds Howl", "Empires" and others. I guess it's my fault for not responding when I had the chance.

Just out of curiosity, besides "Stosstrupp" and "Rainy Season", are there other stories or drawings from other comic book companies with men & women in the German (or other) military armies? It does not matter if it shows modern tanks or futuristic space craft, please send an updated shopping list, because every time I read or look at pinups of other artist's work, (for example: Furrlough #3, p.1, Briano's art; p.32, Joe Rosales's art; #4, p.2, Shon's art; p.29, Jerry Collins's art) I go absolutely crazy, insane, and fall in love with how they're drawn, and it just makes me turn into a howling, crazed but kind, lovable werewolf.

Well, time to go, said enough for now, can't wait for the next issue of Furrlough, the roaring twenties!

May Furrlough run on forever,
Brian Chad Hudson
Jacksonville, FL

Almost all our letters from one guy! C'mon, folks! Philip can't fill the whole letter column by himself every month! (Well, maybe, but it's a big responsibility!) Let's get some more letters in here! We reserve the right to edit letters for space or errors, but that's it! --EW.

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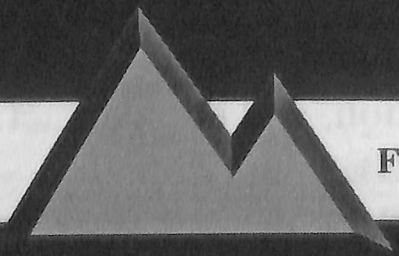
Romantic Slice-of-Life for the Thinking Furry.
Written by Mike Curtis.
Art by Michele Light, Joyceanna Brock,
and Mark Barnard.

Art ©1994 Michele Light

Shanda The Panda



From the Friendly Folks at Antarctic Press.

Shanda the Panda © 1994 Mike Curtis

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